

UNIFORMED PROFESSIONAL FIRE FIGHTERS ASSOCIATION OF CONNECTICUT

AFFILIATED WITH INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIRE FIGHTERS

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March 5, 2008

Dear Senator Stillman, Representative Dargan and members of the Public Safety and Security Committee,

My name is Paul J. Rapanault. I am the Director of Legislative and Political Affairs for the Uniformed Professional Fire Fighters Association of Connecticut. Our 4,500 members serve in 55 fire departments throughout the state.

I am addressing you today in **SUPPORT of S.B. 759, AN ACT AUTHORIZING BONDS OF THE STATE FOR REGIONAL FIRE SCHOOLS.** The Uniformed Professional Fire Fighters Association supports this bill and urges your committee's passage.

The State of Connecticut has valuable assets in the Regional Fire Schools that have been neglected for many years. Study after study and bill after bill have been put forward to correct this situation. Fire fighter training and adequate facilities to conduct that training is imperative to ensure the fire services ability to respond to and mitigate emergencies. This issue has been put off for many years and the time has come to invest in these facilities before they are lost.

We urge you to **SUPPORT** this bill.

In addition, the Uniformed Professional Fire Fighters Association also supports and urges your passage of **H.B. 6286 AN AC SHIELDING FIRE DEPARTMENTS THAT INSTALL SMOKE AND CARBON MONOXIDE** and **H.B. 6289 AN ACT APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR FIREFIGHTER TRAINING**, both bills that are important to our membership.

Thank you for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul J. Rapanault', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Paul J Rapanault
Legislative/Political Affairs